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The Status of the Cassini Mission

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The Cassini spacecraft was launched in October, 1997. Since then it has been on an interplanetary trajectory toward Saturn. It arrives and goes into Saturnian orbit on July 1, 2004. *En route*, Cassini has flown by Venus, Earth, and Jupiter. Each of these events yielded new scientific results. The Cassini flyby of Jupiter provided, with Galileo, the first-ever conjunction of two spacecraft at an outer planet. This was a unique opportunity to investigate the giant planet's magnetic field and the properties of the Jovian system. It provided a focused period for intensive observations of Jupiter. We have examples of scientific cooperation with investigators using Galileo, Hubble, Chandra, and ground-based observatories. The results achieved at Jupiter were no less than stunning (Nature 415, 965-1005, February 28, 2002). Recent results and the current status of the spacecraft and mission will be discussed.

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